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Mollis favors Clinton

And speaking of political endorsements...

Secretary of State **A. Ralph Mollis** has decided which of the top Democratic presidential hopefuls he'll vote for.

Hillary Rodham Clinton's press office issued a statement last week announcing Mollis' support.

"We've received tremendous support from across Rhode Island, and I'm honored that Secretary of State Mollis has joined our effort," said Clinton in the statement, which notes similar support from U.S. Sen. **Sheldon Whitehouse**, Rep. **James R. Langevin** and Providence Mayor **David N. Cicilline**.

What does Mollis have to say in the announcement?

"Senator Clinton has the poise and experience to put America back on the right track and reestablish us as a world leader," he said. "As a senator from New York, Clinton knows the challenges that Northeastern states face. She understands and is ready to address the needs of Rhode Islanders."

Political Scene wondered about the rest of the general officers' feelings on political endorsements.

Attorney General **Patrick C. Lynch** has yet to make up his mind, according to his spokesman, Michael Healey. And General Treasurer **Frank T. Caprio** was a little more vague — his office couldn't provide a specific comment when reached late last week.

Lt. Gov. **Elizabeth Roberts** hasn't committed to a candidate either, but her office had a little bit to say on the subject: "Many of the Democratic candidates share her values and priorities, including a commitment to quality, affordable health care and innovative job creation," Roberts' chief of staff, **Paul J. Tencher** said. "It is a long primary season, and the lieutenant governor looks forward to a positive exchange of ideas and opinions about how to change the course of our country."

Governor Carcieri, incidentally, has already endorsed fellow Republican Romney.

Rhode Island will hold its 2008 presidential primary March 18. A push to move it to Feb. 15 failed in the General Assembly this session.

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